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Oversight Committee reviews schematic drawings

In its quarterly meeting on Monday, April 7, the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee had an opportunity to review schematic – or basic design – drawings presented by representatives of HDR Architects. Project Manager Halden Tally and Architect Manager Paul Labay were on hand to make the presentation.

Design points include a secure walking path for transporting defendants in custody from the detention center to the courts building using a sky bridge and a series of secure corridors and elevators. The final design of the courts building will also include holding cells able to house up to 40 inmates throughout the day as they await hearings or arraignments.

The parking garage, which is being built by the City of Waxahachie as part of the overall project, will have its entrance on Jefferson Street and will hold some 325 vehicles.

Committee Chairman Roy Orr complimented representatives of The Staubach Company, HDR Architects, and the County Engineer's office for their work in building a consensus among various interested parties.

"You've done a real good job of ironing out the wrinkles and possible differences of opinion between several elected officials," Orr said.

A recent visit to the Jail Standards Commission netted approval of that agency for the concept drawings as well. The meeting was attended by County Engineer Joe White, Staubach representative Jon Vidaurri, Jail Captain Terry Ogden, and representatives of HDR Architects.

Issues addressed included:

- Purchase of real property to complete the project
- Mitigation of flood plain issues
- Completion of Phase I environmental studies on associated real properties
- Avoidance of additional "curb cuts" on Main Street (Hwy 287) that would have to be approved by TXDOT
- Consideration of a possible stoplight at Clift and Main
- A potential drive-through window for the tax office

The Committee will meet next on Monday, July 14, at 6:30 p.m.